

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE-IN

CINCUSAFE-INCFR

HQ USEUCOM

CINCUSAREUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

1. TURKEY'S AEGEAN DISPUTE WITH GREECE CONTINUED TO GET
PROMINENT ATTENTION IN THE AUGUST 20 TURKISH PRESS:

A. SEVERAL PAPERS REPORTED THAT PRIMIN DEMIREL
TOLD REPORTERS AUGUST 19 FOLLOWING A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS'
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MEETING THAT THE TURKISH SEISMIC SHIP SISMIK WAS NOT RPT NOT

VIOLATING ANY "LEGAL RULES" IN ITS EXPLORATIONS AND WOULD CONTINUE WITH ITS PHASE THREE OPERATIONS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT NEITHER GREEK SHIPS NOR AIRCRAFT HAD YET IMPEDED THE SISMİK'S CURRENT OPERATIONS. ACCORDING TO MILLİYET, DEMİREL RESPONDED TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE DODECANESE ISLANDS BY STATING, "WE ARE QUITE SENSITIVE ON THIS SUBJECT."

B. ACCORDING TO CUMHURİYET, MFA OFFICIALS STATED AUGUST 19 THAT A 1928 GENEVA AGREEMENT CONCERNING ARBITRATION TO RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES, REPORTEDLY SIGNED BY TURKEY IN 1934, IS NO LONGER VALID BECAUSE IT HAS NOW BEEN SUPPLANTED BY NEW PROCEDURES EVOLVED UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS. THE MAIN POINT OF THE ARTICLE REPORTING THIS STATEMENT IS THAT THE GOT WOULD NOT CONSIDER ITSELF BOUND BY AN INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE DECISION BASED ON THE 1928 TREATY AND THE 1958 GENEVA LOS CONVENTION (TO WHICH TURKEY IS NOT A SIGNATORY) ON THE GROUNDS THAT GREECE HAD MADE AN UNILATERAL APPLICATION TO THE COURT.

C. GUNAYDIN REPORTED FROM ATHENS THAT THE GERMAN WINTERSHALL COMPANY HAD DISCOVERED NEW EXPLOITABLE OIL RESERVES UNDER GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING FIVE MILLION TONS ANNUALLY. THE SAME ARTICLE STATED THAT A FRANKFURT NEWSPAPER HAD REPORTED THAT TURKEY HAD DISCOVERED RICH RESERVES IN DISPUTED WATERS BETWEEN LESBOS AND CHIOS.

D. OTHER AEGEAN COVERAGE INCLUDED A MIXTURE OF STRAIGHT NEWS ARTICLES AND SPECULATION ON THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL'S ATTEMPTS TO REACH A COMPROMISE, A LETTER SUBMITTED BY TURKISH UN PERMREP TURKMEN ON GREEK EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE AEGEAN AND THE CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMİK.

2. MILLİYET'S INFLUENTIAL EDITOR ABDİ İPEKÇİ AUGUST 20 DEVOTED AN EDITORIAL TO REMARKS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY PRİMİN DEMİREL AUGUST 18 THAT THE DODECANESE ISLANDS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO AS "AEGEAN ISLANDS, NOT GREEK ISLANDS". ASKED İPEKÇİ, "DOES DEMİREL WANT TO BE THE 'CONQUEROR OF THE DODECANESE'?" ALTHOUGH THERE WAS AS YET NO INDICATION THAT DEMİREL WAS PLANNING SUCH AN OPERATION, HE NOTED THAT DEMİREL'S COMMENTS UNCLASSIFIED

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COULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE INTENDED TO TAKE OVER THE ISLANDS. İPEKÇİ SAID THAT IN THE PAST ONLY THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AIRSPACE ISSUES HAD BEEN IN DISPUTE, BUT NOW THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF THE ISLANDS WAS EMERGING. İPEKÇİ CONCLUDED THAT JUST AS WITH CYPRUS, UNSOLVED PROBLEMS CREATE NEW PROBLEMS AND MISSED OPPORTUNITIES ARE LOOKED FOR AFTERWARDS; ACCORDINGLY, GREECE IN PARTICULAR SHOULD UNDERSTAND THESE REALITIES.

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